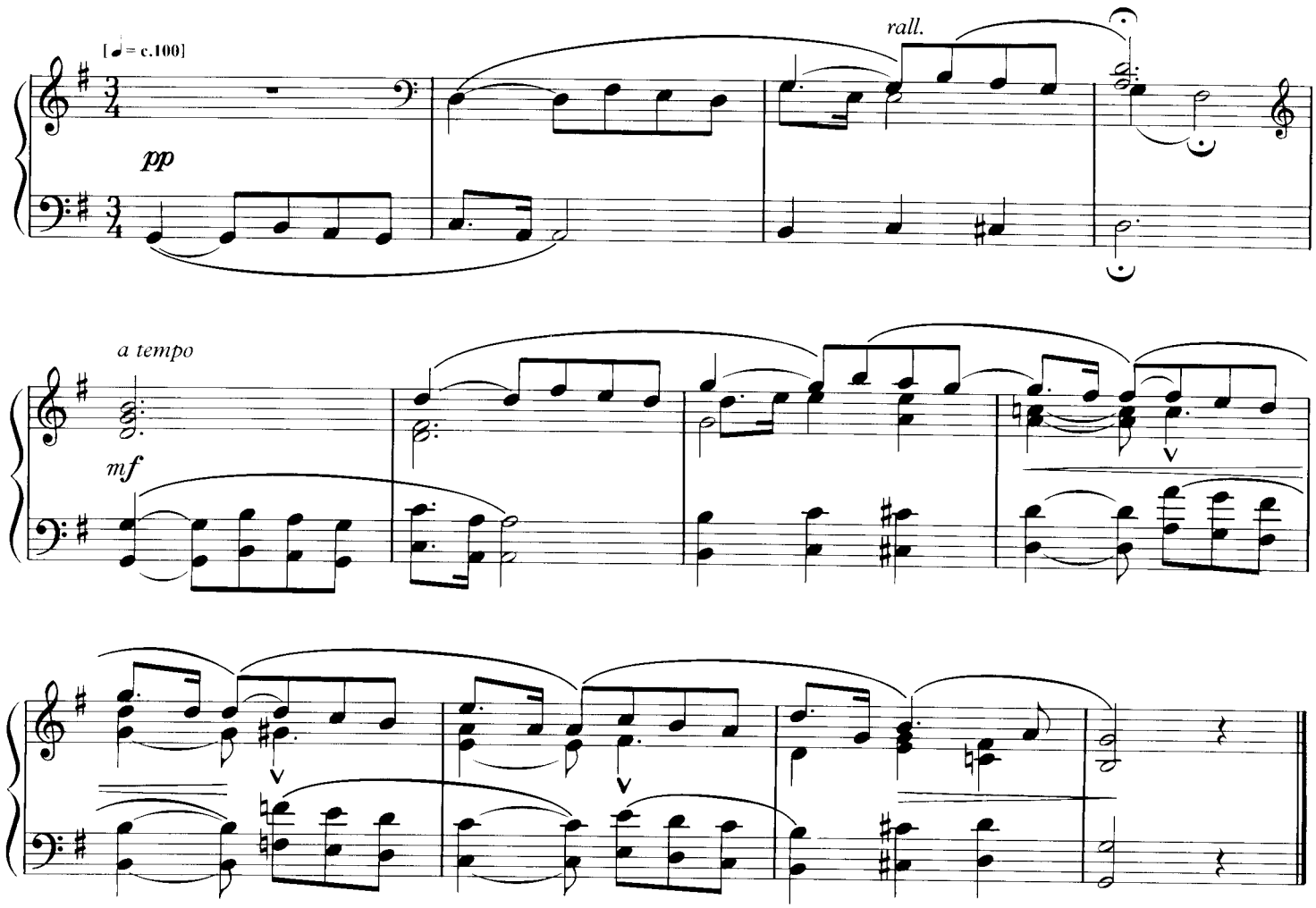
VISIT…

Test 2D: Identifying expressive qualities in performance

'To identify certain features of a piece played by the examiner. The features will be confined to contrasted dynamics (*p*/*f*), gradation of tone (*crescendo*/*diminuendo*), articulation (*staccato*/*legato*) and recognition of tempo changes (*rallentando*/*accelerando* etc.), of which the examiner will select one or two and advise the candidate accordingly before playing the piece. Questions on the selected features will then follow. Candidates will be expected to use Italian terms in their answers where appropriate.'

In the similar test to this in Grade 1, candidates were to listen for contrast of dynamics, gradation of tone and the difference between *staccato* and *legato*. Now we add changes in tempo, in particular the *rallentando* and *accelerando*. The questions will be simple and direct. The aim is to develop pupils' awareness of these features and their contribution to stylistic, musical playing. In the examination, the examiner will tell the candidate the features to be listened for in particular before playing the piece. In lessons, every opportunity should be taken to encourage pupils to talk about the music they are playing.

Here are two extracts from a collection of pieces by Fibich called 'Moods, Impressions and Souvenirs' (Associated Board 'Easier Piano Pieces' No.48).